

Lawyer found dead in Ctg, wife detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An apprentice lawyer was found dead in Chattogram early yesterday.

Abdullah Al Mamun, 25, completed his Bachelor of Legislative Law (LLB) degree from Chattogram BGC Trust University and later started practising at the Chattogram court.

Manjur Qader, officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar police station, said they sent a team to a house on DC road on Wednesday night on information that a youth committed suicide there.

“But police found no one in the house,” he said, adding that the body was found at Chattogram Medical College Hospital’s emergency department early Thursday.”

Meanwhile, police detained the victim’s wife Tamima Akter Liza in this connection.

Mamun’s family and friends claimed that he was murdered by his wife.

The body was sent to the hospital’s morgue for autopsy, said the OC adding that Liza was detained from the hospital in this connection.

During the primary interrogation, his wife said Mamun committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling fan in the house, the OC said.

The victim’s friend Raihan said Mamun was taken to a private hospital in the Chawkbazar area where physicians declared him dead around 12am.

Later, the body was taken to CMCH’s morgue; he said adding that there were marks of injuries on his body including throat, eyes and hands.

Mamun and Liza got married after a love affair and they used to live in a rented house on the rooftop of a building on DC road in the Miah Bafer Masjid area.

Russian worker of Rooppur Power Plant found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Russian national, who worked at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project, was found dead at his dormitory in the Green City Residential Area in Pabna’s Ishwardi.

Kun Alexander, 31, might have suffered a cardiac arrest in his sleep, police said yesterday, quoting doctors.

Ishwardi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Arbinda Sarkar said Alexander did not join work on Wednesday and he was later found dead in his dorm room.

His body was sent to the Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy, the OC added.

Iran army gets 200 ‘strategic’ drones: report

AFP, Tehran

Iran’s defence ministry has delivered the army with more than 200 new drones equipped with missile capabilities and electronic warfare systems, state media reported yesterday.

In a ceremony broadcast on television, Defence Minister Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani handed over “more than 200 long-range strategic drones” to army chief Abdolrahim Mousavi, the official news agency IRNA said.

Produced by the Iranian defence ministry, the drones are designed for reconnaissance and strike missions, and can carry air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles, IRNA said.

The United States and the European Union have sanctioned Iran over its drone programme, alleging it had supplied Russia with unmanned aerial vehicles for its war on Ukraine – a charge Tehran denies.

Observers

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She said the number of Rohingyas has increased with the birth of 40,000 babies, which has become a huge burden for Bangladesh.

“R Rohingyas are the nationals of Myanmar and they must go back to their homeland,” she said.

Dickson said his country has supported Bangladesh on Rohingya issue.

Hasina stressed the need for stopping the Russia-Ukraine war immediately as the entire world has been suffering for it.

“We’re always against any war,” she said.

The prime minister said Russia and Ukraine can solve their problems through talks.

Bangladesh has solved all bilateral problems with neighbours through talks, she added.

PMO Secretary Mohammad Salahuddin was present during the meeting.



People flee their neighbourhoods amid fighting between the army and paramilitaries in Khartoum, Sudan on Wednesday, following the collapse of a 24-hour truce. Story on page 7.

PHOTO: AFP

World could face record temperatures this year

Say climate scientists as El Nino weather phenomenon returns

REUTERS, Brussels

The world could breach a new average temperature record in 2023 or 2024, fuelled by climate change and the anticipated return of the El Nino weather phenomenon, climate scientists say.

Climate models suggest that after three years of the La Nina weather pattern in the Pacific Ocean, which generally lowers global temperatures slightly, the world will experience a return to El Nino, the warmer counterpart, later this year.

During El Nino, winds blowing west along the equator slow down, and warm water is pushed east, creating warmer surface ocean temperatures.

“El Nino is normally associated with record breaking temperatures at the global level. Whether this will happen in 2023 or 2024 is yet known, but it is, I think, more likely than not,” said Carlo Buontempo, director of the EU’s Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Climate models suggest a return to

El Nino conditions in the late boreal summer, and the possibility of a strong El Nino developing towards the end of the year, Buontempo said.

The world’s hottest year on record so far was 2016, coinciding with a strong

The last eight years were the world’s eight hottest on record - reflecting the longer-term warming trend driven by greenhouse gas emissions.

El Nino - although climate change has fuelled extreme temperatures even in years without the phenomenon.

The last eight years were the world’s eight hottest on record - reflecting the longer-term warming trend driven by greenhouse gas emissions.

Friederike Otto, senior lecturer at Imperial College London’s Grantham Institute, said El Nino-fuelled temperatures

could worsen the climate change impacts countries are already experiencing - including severe heatwaves, drought and wildfires.

“If El Niño does develop, there is a good chance 2023 will be even hotter than 2016 - considering the world has continued to warm as humans continue to burn fossil fuels,” Otto said.

EU Copernicus scientists published a report yesterday assessing the climate extremes the world experienced last year, its fifth-warmest year on record.

Europe experienced its hottest summer on record in 2022, while climate change-fuelled extreme rain caused disastrous flooding in Pakistan, and in February, Antarctic sea ice levels hit a record low.

The world’s average global temperature is now 1.2C higher than in pre-industrial times, Copernicus said.

Despite most of the world’s major emitters pledging to eventually slash their net emissions to zero, global CO2 emissions last year continued to rise.

Boy kills 7-yr-old cousin during rape attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A 13-year-old boy was arrested for allegedly strangling his seven-year-old cousin to death while trying to rape her in Panchagarh’s Debiganj upazila, police said yesterday.

The girl was identified as Ria Moni, 7, daughter of Monowar Hossain from the upazila’s Peralbari village.

Her body was recovered from a maize field in Mahantapara village on Wednesday night.

Debiganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jamal Hossain said the girl left her house on Wednesday afternoon with her cousin who came to visit from Dhaka the day before.

However, when the boy returned home alone in the evening, the girl’s family members questioned him about her whereabouts, and he later confessed to killing her while attempting to rape her.

The girl’s father later filed a case against his nephew with the local police station.

2 hundi traders arrested in Noakhali

BSS, Dhaka

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police arrested two hundi traders in Noakhali’s Chatkhil early yesterday

Shahadat Hossain, 23, and Balai Chandra Das, 26, used sources in the middle east to bring remittances into the country through hundi channel.

They laundered about Tk 50 crore through bKash in the last three years, a CID press release said.

A case has been filed against them with Paltan Police Station of Dhaka Metropolitan Police under the Special Powers Act and Digital Security Act.

Motorcyclist killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Motorcyclist killed in collision with human haulier Our Correspondent, Thakurgaon

A motorcyclist died after his vehicle collided with a human haulier on the Baliadangi-Lahiri road in Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon yesterday.

The victim is Nazir Islam, 35, of the upazila’s Kashidanga village.

Police said the crash occurred in front of the Dakbungalow around 9:00am when a Baliadangi-bound motorcycle collided head-on with a human haulier coming from the opposite direction leaving the motorcyclist injured seriously.

Locals rushed the victim to the Baliadangi Upazila Health Complex where the duty doctors referred him to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital after providing primary treatment.

Nazir later succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital.

Malaysia recalls

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Department officers, not diplomats.

The MACC was also tracking an individual named Siti Liyana Sakijan to help in the investigation and called on those with information on the woman to contact investigating officer Jayaraj Rajan at 016-6371082.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Labour Department Director General Asri Rahman told Reuters that the government is investigating why and how hundreds of migrant workers from Bangladesh and Nepal were jobless, though they paid hefty sums for jobs in the Southeast Asian country.

He declined to provide details until completion of the inquiry.

Last week, V Sivakumar, the Malaysian minister for human resources, visited a group of 226 Bangladeshi and Nepali workers who had been in the Southeast Asian country for 40 days without the jobs they had been promised.

He described as “appalling” the crowded accommodation of the workers, and vowed to find them jobs at the earliest, but did not identify the provider of the facilities.

MACC also detained two of Sivakumar’s senior officers and a businessman last week in connection with its investigation into recruitment of foreign workers. The trio were released from remand on Monday.

Sivakumar was questioned twice by the MACC.

Contacted yesterday, Bangladesh Expatriates’ Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad told The Daily Star that he has learnt of the arrest of two Malaysian officials. “If there is any wrongdoing, it should be investigated and those responsible for migrant workers’ sufferings should be brought to book.”

Labour migration to Malaysia in the recent years has gained much international attention because of excessive recruitment cost and labour exploitation, especially when it comes to recruitment from Bangladesh.

Businesses linked to the power

Women labour force on the rise

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At the same time, female labour force participation in urban areas declined significantly: from 31 percent in 2016-17 to 23.6 percent in 2022.

Sharmin Neelormi, an associate professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University, also attributed the trend to greater involvement in agriculture.

“Usually, a woman in a rural area would not be able to stay unemployed as per the definition of employment,” she said.

It is relatively easier for women in rural areas to get into family’s economic activities – be it in farming or non-farm activities, said Rizwanul Islam, a former employment sector special adviser at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva.

It is quite possible that a large number of young women entered their family business when the schools were closed during the pandemic.

The education sector has also emerged as an important employer for women in rural areas, he said.

For several decades, microcredit has played an important role in generating self-employment in rural areas, and a very high proportion of the borrowers are women, according to Islam.

Good, so far

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A large number of garment workers set out for their holidays after their factories closed in the evening. Buses were picking them up blocking roads, which caused congestions, an official of the control room said.

“We have already spoken to law enforcers there and we hope they will free up the road soon,” he said.

A total of 7,105 motorcycles crossed the Padma Bridge during the first 12 hours after the vehicles were allowed on the bridge, Bridges Division Secretary Monjur Hossain told The Daily Star.

“The overall experience on the first

“That has helped rural women to participate in economic activities,” he added.

As much as 90 percent of the 4 crore microcredit borrowers are women, according to Mohammad Yakub Hossain, director of the Microcredit Regulatory Authority.

Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist at the World Bank’s Dhaka office, said there is not much to rejoice over the statistical increase in rural and overall female labour force participation.

In 2016, the overall female labour force participation rate was 36.3 percent, which increased to 42.68 percent in 2022.

“Women’s access to quality jobs did not improve – they are still lagging behind men in career and access to education and so on because of social norms. They are not reaching the mid-level or managerial level. It is not that they are incapable. This is a matter of concern,” Hussain said.

Mustalizer Rahman, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, echoed the same.

The female labour force in rural areas is mostly involved in self-employment rather than wage-related jobs, he said.

The drop in female labour force participation rate in urban areas is

day is quite good as most of the bikes follow the directives and stayed in their lane,” he said at 8:10pm.

Monjur said 16,218 vehicles crossed the bridge from the Mawa end between 12:00am and 6:00pm, paying Tk 1.65 crore in toll.

Meanwhile, two road crashes in Munshiganj and Dinaipur killed eight people.

Khairul Kabir, division transport officer (Dhaka division) of Bangladesh Railway, said, the Chattogram-bound Sonar Bangla Express left Dhaka after a delay of more than three and a half hours due to a technical problem.

The non-stop train finally left

not a good sign, said Sayema Haque Bidisha, a professor of economics at the University of Dhaka.

“This is not good for socioeconomic development – it may create discrimination between the rural and urban areas,” said Rahman of CPD, while calling for more investment to create more jobs for women and ensure a good work environment for them.

Bidisha, also the research director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling, went on to suggest incentives for the private sector to take on more women in their payroll.

The government should address all fundamental workplace issues for women like childcare, safe transport and so on, she added.

“Unfriendly environments for women’s work outside the home and lack of supporting infrastructure like child care and nursing facilities for young mothers are the major reasons for lower urban female labour force participation,” Islam said.

There is a shortage of jobs for urban educated women especially white-collar jobs as per their aspiration, which may be reflected in a much higher rate of unemployment for educated women, he added.

Kamalapur Railway Station at 10:25am.

A total of 56 trains, including 40 intercity trains, were supposed to leave Dhaka yesterday, Khairul said.

He said many in the crowd that gathered outside the Kamalapur station to buy standing tickets, had to leave empty-handed as they had a small number of tickets to sell.

Since evening excess passengers were seen in trains and even on roofs of carriages at Kamalapur and Airport stations.

There was relatively a larger crowd at the Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday compared to the day before.